

Sticky Stories: Early Literacy & Family Engagement Through Community Collaboration

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Agenda

- Introduction
- The Challenge
- What is a Sticky Story?
- How do Sticky Stories foster early literacy & family engagement?
- How to design, assemble, and distribute Sticky Stories
- Strategies and ideas for collaboration with community partners
- Assessing Impact
- Funding
- Questions

Objectives

- Apply best practices to design, assemble, and distribute Sticky Stories.
- Learn effective strategies for collaborating with partner organizations.
- Develop plans for funding, engaging volunteers, and creating assessment tools for similar projects.

Introduction

Heather Harrison
Associate Administrator
Literacy & Partnerships
Flint & Genesee Literacy Network (FGLN)

Once a librarian, always a librarian.



Genesee Reads
A collaboration of
Flint & Genesee Literacy Network

FREE BOOK A MONTH

Through the Genesee Reads initiative, all Genesee County kids can receive FREE books mailed to their home from birth until their 5th birthday.

Register Your Child Today!



For partnership ideas and more resources to support your child's learning visit:
flintliteracynetwork.org/geneseereads

Enroll Online



Genesee Reads is a collaboration of
Flint & Genesee Literacy Network
Call: 810.232.2526
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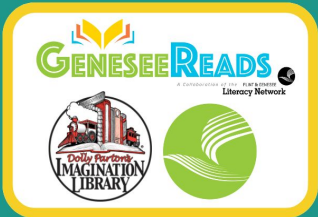


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Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) Activity Sheets

Group 2: Birth Year 2023

Tad & Dad by David Ezra Stein



A funny--and tender--tale of a growing tadpole who loves his frog dad so much he never gives him a moment's peace.

Talk

Talk about animals that live in the water. How many can you name? Frogs, fish, bugs, turtles, snakes... This is a great way to increase your child's vocabulary.

Sing

Sing frog songs with your child:

- Five Green & Speckled Frogs
- Five Little Froggies

Both of these songs teach story patterns and subtraction. Your child will learn to predict what comes next and be able to count down the numbers.

Read

Hold your child as you read. Snuggling with your child while reading makes you both feel special and loved. If your child wiggles and can't sit still, that's okay. Stop and try another time, or try shorter reading sessions. Let your child play with a toy while you read. Even if their hands are busy, they are still listening.

Write

Encourage your child to color with crayons and markers. Jumbo crayons and dot markers are great for toddlers. This strengthens hand/finger muscles and improves motor skills

Play

Play Leap Frog with your child, or show your child how to leap frog with stuffed animals.

Five Little Froggies

Five little froggies sat on a shore.
(Crouch like a frog)

One went for a swim, then there were four.
(Pretend to leap and swim off)

Four little froggies
(Crouch like a frog)

Looked out to sea.
(Put your hand at brow and look out to sea)

One went swimming, and then there were three.
(Pretend to leap and swim off)

Three little froggies said, "What can we do?"
One jumped in the water, then there were two.
(Pretend to leap and swim off)

Two little froggies sat in the sun.
(Crouch like a frog)
One swam off, and then there was one.
(Pretend to leap and swim off)

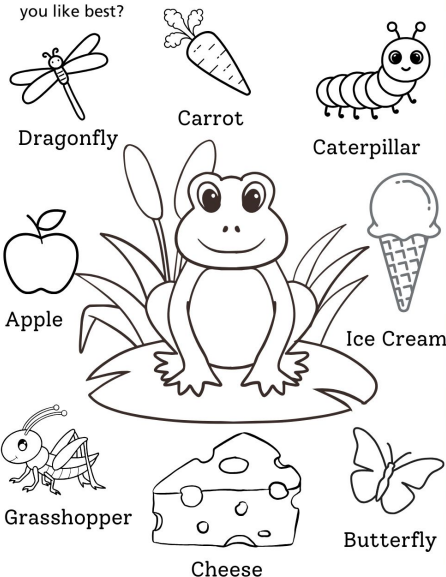
One little froggie said "This is no fun!"
He dived in the water, and then there were none!



SCAN ME

What is Frog's Favorite Food?

Circle all the foods Frog likes to eat. What foods do you like best?



Color

Color the frog.



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The Challenge

Develop a resource caregivers can use at home to foster early literacy skills and family engagement.

- Interactive
- Non screen-based
- Pairs with books
- Encourages Talk, Read, Sing, Write, Play best practices
- Inexpensive
- Durable



What is a Sticky Story?

Inspired by library story time, felt stories, and early childhood education (ECE) manipulatives, Sticky Stories are interactive song and story mats fostering early literacy and family engagement.

Purpose: Sticky Stories combine storytelling, song, movement, and hands-on activities to create impactful Parent & Child Together Time (PACT) experiences.

Library Connection: Sticky Stories use library story time songs/rhymes, folktales, fairy tales, and fables. Can be paired with books and used in early literacy kits.

Flexibility: Adaptable to various community settings and cultural themes and can be inserted into another organization's programming.

Low-cost: Relatively inexpensive at approximately \$1.50 per story.

How Do Sticky Stories Foster Early Literacy?

Early Literacy Development

- Vocabulary building: New words emerge through stories, songs, rhymes, and talking.
- Print awareness and motivation: Different fonts, size, color help children understand that print carries meaning.
- Sequencing: Children and caregivers retell and reorder story events with using sticky pieces.
- Fine-motor development: Placing and moving pieces supports hand strength and coordination

How Do Sticky Stories Foster Early Literacy?

Family Engagement

- Interactive Reading: Families read, talk, sing, and play together, strengthening language and connection.
- Modeling Literacy Behaviors: Grown-ups ask questions, explore vocabulary, and encourage storytelling.
- Conversation and turn-taking: Playful format invites dialogue and builds oral language skills.

How Do Sticky Stories Foster Early Literacy?

Cultural/Community Connection

- Bilingual options: Stories in English and home languages support language development for both children and adults
- Representation: Characters and settings represent the diversity of families and communities.

Multi-Disciplinary Learning

- STEAM Integration: Stories and songs can include exploration of STEAM subjects: building, balance, measuring, etc.
- Nature exploration: Stories about seasons, nature, and animals spark curiosity about the natural world.

Five Little Penguins Five Little Frogs

Mathematical song boards are an excellent way to encourage early literacy skills with your child. They combine music, visual aids, and hands-on interaction to create a multi-sensory learning experience. Numeracy skills are closely linked to early childhood literacy, as they both involve the development of cognitive abilities that help children understand and interact with the world around them.

Manipulating literacy props and chanting fun rhyming songs like Five Little Penguins and Five Little Frogs supports the following literacy and numeracy skills:

Literacy Skills:

- Increases children's vocabulary skills
- Helps with retelling strategies
- Increases reading-like behaviors
- Motivates children to engage with print
- Increases identification of rhyming words

Numeracy Skills:

- Helps children recognize numbers
- Helps children count forward and backward
- Helps children engage in simple addition/subtraction
- Helps children develop spatial awareness
- Increases both number and narrative sequencing



Five Little Penguins Five Little Frogs

Five Little Penguins

One little penguin
nothing much to **do**
called for his brother,
then there were **two**.

Two little penguins
happy as could **be**
called for their sister,
then there were **three**.

Three little penguins
wished there were **more**
called for their mother,
then there were **four**.

Four little penguins
learning how to **dive**,
called for their father,
then there were **five**.

ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE!



Let us know what you think!

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Five Little Frogs

Five little froggies sat on a **shore**.
(Crouch like a frog)

One went for a swim, then there were **four**.
(Pretend to leap and swim off)

Four little froggies
(Crouch like a frog)

Looked out to **sea**.
(Put your hand at brow and look out to sea)

One went swimming, and then there were **three**.
(Pretend to leap and swim off)

Three little froggies said, "What can we **do**?"

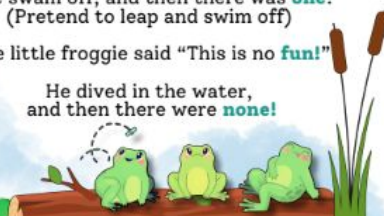
One jumped in the water, then there were **two**.
(Pretend to leap and swim off)

Two little froggies sat in the **sun**.
(Crouch like a frog)

One swam off, and then there was **one**.
(Pretend to leap and swim off)

One little froggie said "This is no **fun**!"

He dived in the water,
and then there were **none**!





Five Little Penguins

1
one

2
two

3
three

4
four

5
five





Five Little Frogs



Sticky Story Product Testing: Phase 1



Autumn Leaves Are Falling Down

Combining a matching game with an interactive rhyming song is an excellent way to encourage early literacy skills with your child. Music, visual aids, and hands-on interaction creates a multi-sensory learning experience. Matching games help young children learn to read by building language skills, improving their ability to see and hear differences, strengthening memory, and making learning fun.



Manipulating literacy props and chanting fun rhyming songs like Autumn Leaves Are Falling Down supports the following literacy skills:

- Increases children's vocabulary skills
- Helps with listening skills
- Increases reading-like behaviors
- Supports memory and recall
- Helps children recognize patterns
- Helps children develop spatial awareness
- Helps children recognize similarities and differences which contributes to number and letter learning
- Helps children understand and interact with the world around them



Autumn Leaves Are Falling Down

(Tune: London Bridge)

Autumn leaves are falling down,
Falling down, falling down.
Autumn leaves are falling down,
All over town!

Red and yellow, orange and brown,
Orange and brown, orange and brown.
Red and yellow, orange and brown,
Leaves are on the ground!

Pick the red one, match it now,
Match it now, match it now.
Pick the red one, match it now,
Match it with a friend!

Pick the yellow, match it too,
Match it too, match it too.
Pick the yellow, match it too,
So many more leaves to do!

Pick the orange, match it now,
Match it now, match it now.
Pick the orange, match it now,
Before it falls upon the ground.





Match the Leaves to Their Fall Colors



Maple Leaf
Yellow & Red



Aspen Leaf
Yellow



Red Oak Leaf
Red



Match the Leaves to Their Fall Colors



White Oak Leaf
Red & Orange



American Beech Leaf
Yellow & Brown



Cucú-Cucú Cantaba La Rana Cuckoo-Cuckoo Sang the Frog

Cantar o corear canciones interactivas con rimas es una excelente manera de fomentar las habilidades de lectoescritura emergentes de su hijo. Al manipular los accesorios y corear cada verso, no solo se fomenta el desarrollo del lenguaje, sino que al agarrar, mover y volver a colocar los accesorios, fortalecen los músculos pequeños de las manos que se usan para escribir.

Singing or chanting interactive rhyming songs is an excellent way to encourage emergent literacy skills with your child. As children manipulate the props and chant each verse, not only is language development being supported, but as the children grab, move, and reattach the song props, they strengthen the small muscles of their hands used for writing.

Manipular accesorios de alfabetización y cantar canciones divertidas que riman como "Cucú-Cucú Cantaba La Rana" fomenta las siguientes habilidades de alfabetización:

Habilidades de lectoescritura:

- Aumenta el vocabulario de los niños.
- Ayuda con las estrategias de narración.
- Ayuda a los niños a reconocer letras y sonidos.
- Fomenta conductas similares a la lectura.
- Motiva a los niños a interactuar con la letra impresa.
- Aumenta la identificación de palabras que riman.

Manipulating literacy props and chanting fun rhyming songs like "Cuckoo-Cuckoo Sang the Frog" supports the following literacy skills:

Literacy Skills:

- Increases children's vocabulary skills
- Helps with retelling strategies
- Helps children recognize letters and sounds
- Increases reading-like behaviors
- Motivates children to engage with print
- Increases identification of rhyming words

Cucú-Cucú Cantaba La Rana Cuckoo-Cuckoo Sang the Frog

Estaba la **rana** sentada,
cantando debajo del agua.
Cuando la rana salió a cantar,
vino la mosca y la hizo callar.

La **mosca** y la rana,
sentadas debajo del agua.
Cuando la mosca salió a cantar,
vino la araña y la hizo callar.

La **araña**, la mosca y la rana,
sentadas debajo del agua.
Cuando la araña salió a cantar,
vino el gato y la hizo callar.

El **gato**, la araña, la mosca y la rana,
sentados debajo del agua.
Cuando el gato salió a cantar,
vino el perro y lo hizo callar.

El **perro**, el gato, la araña, la mosca y la rana,
sentados debajo del agua.
Cuando el perro salió a cantar,
vino el hombre y lo hizo callar.

El **hombre**, el perro, el gato, la araña, la mosca y la rana,
sentados debajo del agua.
Cuando el hombre salió a cantar,
vino la abuela y lo hizo callar.

La **abuela**, el hombre, el perro, el gato, la araña, la mosca y la rana,
sentados debajo del agua.
Cuando la abuela salió a cantar,
¡nadie más la pudo callar!



¡Cuéntanos lo que piensas!
Let us know what you think!

There was a **frog** just sitting **tight**,
Singing beneath the water **bright**.
When the frog came out to **sing**,
A buzzing fly flapped its **wing**—
Shhhh!

The **fly** and frog sat side by **side**,
Singing beneath the waters **wide**.
When the fly came out to **sing**,
A spider crawled on silent **string**—
Shhhh!

The **spider**, fly, and frog so **small**,
Sang beneath the water **tall**.
When the spider raised its **tune**,
A sneaky cat came purring **soon**—
Shhhh!

The **cat**, the spider, fly, and **frog**,
Sang beneath the misty **fog**.
When the cat began to **play**,
A barking dog ran in to **stay**—
Shhhh!

The **dog**, the cat, the spider **too**,
The fly and frog sang soft and **true**.
When the dog let out a **cheer**,
A man stepped in so all could **hear**—
Shhhh!

The **man**, the dog, the cat, the **rest**,
All sang out loud their very **best**.
When the man sang clear and **bold**,
A grandma came with stories **old**—
Shhhh!

The **grandma** sang with voice so **grand**,
No one could quiet her **command**!
She sang so loud, she sang so **free**,
And laughed with joy for all to **see**—
Shhhh? ... No way!

Spanish to English Translation

Rana - Frog	Gato - Cat
Mosca - Fly	Perro - Dog
Araña - Spider	Hombre - Man

Abuela - Grandma



Cucú-Cucú Cantaba La Rana Cuckoo-Cuckoo Sang the Frog



Copyright!

Opt for songs and stories that are considered public domain. Nursery rhymes, early childhood songs, folktales, and fables are great options that can be adapted to fit your needs.

- Consider using AI Tools to help you revise or customize content.

Froggy Hop

*(To the tune of *London Bridge is Falling Down*)

(Verse 1)

Frogs are hopping up and down,
Up and down, up and down!
Frogs are hopping up and down,
All around the town!

(Verse 2)

See them sitting on a log,
On a log, on a log!
See them sitting on a log,
Singing in the fog!

(Verse 3)

Frogs jump high and frogs jump low,
Jump real fast, jump real slow!
Frogs jump left and then they go,
Hopping to and fro!

(Verse 4)

In the water, splash and play,
Splash and play, splash and play!
In the pond both night and day,
Happy frogs will stay!

Design & Assemble

Design

- Canva
- Limit number of characters
- Add shape and outline around characters for easy cutting
- Add vocabulary word lists
- Add extension activities

Supplies needed for assembly:

- Laminator (5 mil thickness setting is ideal)
- Laminating sheets (3mil)
- Velcro dots/squares ($\frac{3}{4}$ inch)
- Color printer

Leverage volunteers for assembly:

- Library volunteers
- Teen volunteers
- Great Start Collaborative Parent Meetings
- Partner Organization Volunteers
- Sticky Story Assembly parties



Distribute

- Community events
- Story time
- Early Literacy kits
- Partner Organization programs
- Meet Up & Eat Up programs



Sticky Story Product Testing: Phase 2



الأرنب يسابق السلحفاة The Rabbit Races The Turtle

هناك العديد من الإصدارات لهذه الحكاية. إن قراءة الحكايات والقصص الشعبية والحكايات الخيالية مع طفلك، بما في ذلك الإصدارات المتعددة لنفس القصة، هي طريقة ممتازة لتشجيع مهارات القراءة والكتابة المبكرة. فبينما يستمع الأطفال إليك وأنت تقرأ القصة، لا يتم دعم تطوير المفردات واللغة فحسب، بل إن قيام الأطفال بإمسك الحيوانات وتحريكها وإعادة تجميعها، يعزز العضلات الصغيرة في أيديهم والتي تستعمل في الكتابة.

There are many versions of this fable. Reading fables, folktales, and fairy tales with your child, including multiple versions of the same story, is an excellent way to encourage early literacy skills. As children listen to you read the story, not only is vocabulary and language development being supported, but as the children grab, move, and reattach the animals, they strengthen the small muscles of their hands used for writing.

Reading fables, folktales, and fairy tales with your child supports the following literacy skills:

- Increases children's vocabulary skills
- Helps with retelling strategies
- Introduces children to descriptive language
- Helps children with recalling order and predicting what comes next. strengthening memory and comprehension
- Motivates children to engage with print

قراءة الحكايات والقصص الشعبية والحكايات الخيالية مع طفلك تدعم مهارات القراءة والكتابة التالية:

- تزيد من مهارات المفردات لدى الأطفال.
- تساعد في استراتيجيات إعادة السرد
- تعرّف الأطفال على اللغة الوصفية
- تساعد الأطفال على تذكر الترتيب وتوقع ما سيأتي بعد ذلك. تقوية الذاكرة والفهم
- تحفز الأطفال على التفاعل مع المطبوعات



Let us know what you think!
دعنا نطلع على رأيك

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الأرنب يسابق السلحفاة The Rabbit Races The Turtle

في أحد الأيام، كان أرنب يقفز عبر الغابة. كان يحب الركض بسرعة وكان يقول دائماً: "أنا أسرع حيوان على الإطلاق!"
ثم رأى سلحفاة تتجول ببطء على طول الطريق. ضحك الأرنب وقال: "أنت بطيئة جداً! أراهن أنك لن تفوزي أبداً في سباق!"
ابتسمت السلحفاة وقالت: "دعنا نتسابق ونرى!"
اعتقد الأرنب أنه سيكون من السهل الفوز. عندما بدأ السباق، ركض الأرنب بسرعة كبيرة وكان متقدماً كثيراً. نظر إلى الوراء ورأى السلحفاة تتحرك ببطء. قال: "لن تلحق بي هذه السلحفاة أبداً". لذلك، توقف تحت شجرة للراحة ونام.
لكن السلحفاة لم تتوقف! خطوة بخطوة، واصلت المشي. بينما كان الأرنب نائماً، استمرت السلحفاة في التجول ببطء - حتى عبرت خط النهاية!
عندما استيقظ الأرنب، ركض بأسرع ما يمكن، لكن كان الأوان قد فات. كانت السلحفاة قد فازت بالفعل!
لقد فوجئ الأرنب كثيراً. لقد تعلم أن السرعة أمر جيد، ولكن عدم الاستسلام أبداً هو الأفضل!

One day, a rabbit was hopping through the forest. He loved to run fast and always said, "I'm the fastest animal of all!"

Then, he saw a turtle strolling slowly along the path. The rabbit laughed and said, "You are so slow! I bet you could never win a race!"

The turtle smiled and said, "Let's race and see!"

The rabbit thought it would be easy to win. As the race started, the rabbit ran very fast and was far ahead. He looked back and saw the turtle moving slowly. "That turtle will never catch me," he said. So, he stopped under a tree to rest and fell asleep.

But the turtle didn't stop! Step by step, she kept strolling. While the rabbit slept, the turtle kept strolling slowly—until she crossed the finish line!

When the rabbit woke up, he ran as fast as he could, but it was too late. The turtle had already won!

The rabbit was so surprised. He learned that being fast is good, but never giving up is even better!

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الأرنب يسابق السلحفاة

The Rabbit Races The Turtle



Strategies for Collaboration with Community Partners

Identify Potential Partners:

- Museums
- Nature Centers
- Early Childhood Centers
- Cultural organizations

Ask:

- Do you have shared audiences?
- Does another organization serve a hard-to-reach audience?
- How can the library better support/insert literacy in a partner's programs?

Collaborate:

- Co-create content tailored to partner audiences
- Use partner organization volunteers for assembly
- Co-host community events featuring Sticky Stories



Assessing Impact: Caregiver Survey



Sticky Stories: Literacy that Sticks!

* 1. My child is:

- ☐ Under 12 months
- ☐ 1 year old
- ☐ 2 years old
- ☐ 3 years old
- ☐ 4 years old
- ☒ 5 years old
- ☐ Older than 5 years old

* 2. I found the activity easy to use.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

* 3. I found that the activity supported the early learning skills listed.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

* 4. My child enjoyed the early learning activity presented.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☒ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

5. Further comments and suggestions are welcome.

Done

Assessing Impact: Partner Organization Observation Tool

Partner Organization Observation Tool

* 1. Partner Organization Name:

* 2. How many guests have participated in this activity?

* 3. How many guests are expected to participate in this activity?

* 4. Parents in our program will be better equipped to participate in their child's learning because of this activity.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

* 5. Families enjoyed this activity.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

* 6. This activity helps our organization incorporate literacy into our programs.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

7. Share a story of a family using this activity.

8. Further comments and suggestions are welcome.

Done

Success Stories & Community Partner Feedback

Success Stories:

- For-Mar Nature Preserve uses Sticky Stories with their nature-themed storytimes
- Uloma Immigrants' House uses Sticky Stories in their family literacy programs

“Sticky Stories are useful for adding early literacy skills to our story time programs. The song or story's repetition, rhymes, and actions help build skills for decoding words, tracking, and writing. The activity is fun and relates to our program theme; sparking curiosity and conversation. It also demonstrates methods for practicing early literacy at home.”

For-Mar Nature Preserve & Arboretum

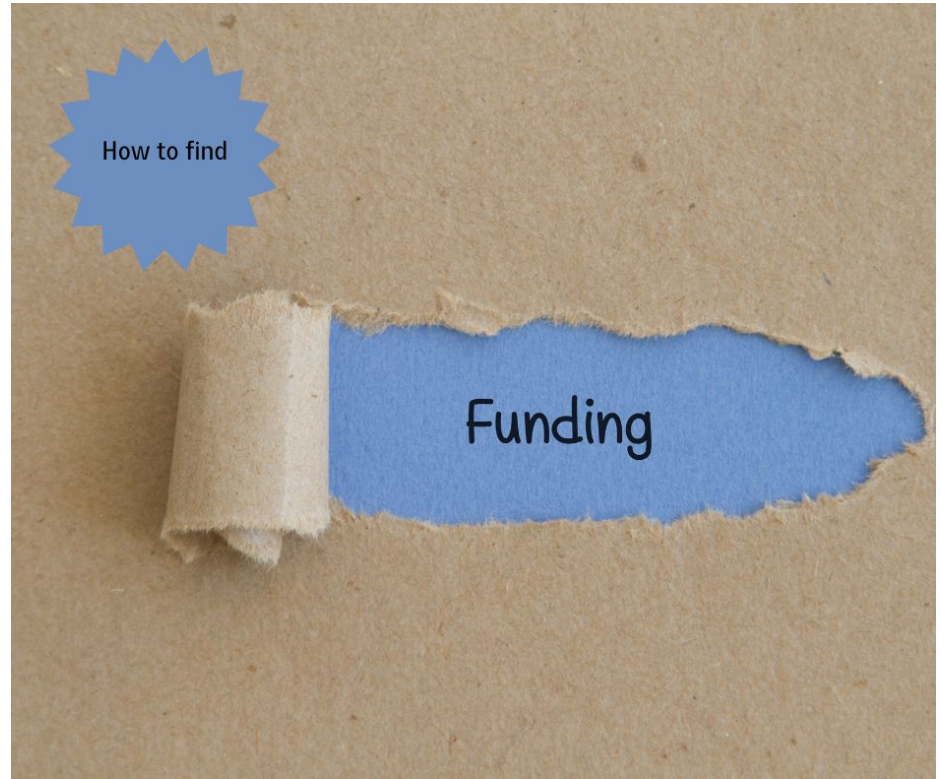
“The families who've received these song/story boards love them! They're interactive and allow for positive parent engagement revolving around literacy.”

Great Start Collaborative Genesee

Funding

Potential Funding Sources:

- Library Friends Groups
- Local Rotary Clubs
- Community Foundations
- Great Start Collaborative



Questions?

